THE BRETHREN'S EVANGELIST.
A Religious Weekly,
Having the BIBLE for its Creed.

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IS THERE A HELL?

Our answer unequivocally is: there is a hell. And we see no reason why there should not be. It is simply a bad place, with a bad reputation, and for bad people. The road that leads to the place is placarded all along, and all the intersections are well supplied with hand boards, so that no one who has eyes to see and can read need to go to hell by mistake. True, it is a dangerous place and the way that leads to it is a dangerous road; but that is no proof that it does not exist. The poisoned valley is a dangerous place; volcanoes are fearful places, and the roads that lead to them are hazardous, yet we all know that such places do exist. There is no more occasion for men and women to go to hell than there is that they should meet death in the crater of a volcano, or by suffocation in a poisoned atmosphere. Hell is not for men and women, but for the devil and his angels. Men are not compelled to be angels (messengers) of the devil. But if they wish to become his servants, they should not object to going to their Master's abode.

We know there is a hell as we know there is a heaven. No one seems to controvert the existence of heaven. There is as much proof of one as there is of the other. Heaven is a more desirable place, but not any more certain. The Bible speaks as definitely and familiarly of hell as it does of earth, of sea, of sky, of sun, moon, or stars, and refers to the inhabitants of heaven and hell in the same matter of fact style as it does of the denizens of the earth and the sea. It does not attempt to prove the existence of anything to which it refers. So far as proof is possible, and as far as man has been able to investigate, all the propositions and statements laid down in the Bible have been found true, and all the places and things referred to in the sacred record have been proven to exist or to have existed. The leviathan in the great deep and the behemoth of the dry land are found as described in holy writ. The rivers, lakes, oceans, mountains, vallies, plains, cities and towns described in the Bible all testify to the accuracy of the record either in themselves or by their ruins. The origin and history of man as given in the Bible cannot be gainsaid, and we see no reason why his destiny as revealed by the same authority should be called in question. The Bible accounts for the existence of man, names him, accurately and definitely describes him in all his complicated existence, physical, mental, moral and social. Now it appears to us, that if we should meet a man who would tell us all which we did in the past, without having known us, we would feel like accepting all he would prophesy of us for the future. So of the Bible. All it says of good people and of bad, so far as this life is concerned, has been found faithfully correct, as much so as any writer of the present day could deliniate it, and so we feel that we may safely confide in what it reveals of man's future existence. It tells us that "The wicked shall be cast into hell," and we say, well, for that is exactly where they ought to be. There can be no heaven unless evil shall be removed. Evil cannot be separated from good unless there be separate places for each. The Bible says there are such places, and that there is a wide gulf between them so that things cannot get mixed up as they are here, and we are glad of it. Heaven is the place for the good, where God is, and hell is the abode of the wicked and the devil is its keeper. The arrangement suits us, since we are at perfect liberty to make our choice between the two places. We have chosen the good and are striving hard to get good enough for heaven. And we are willing that all men shall have the same privilege that we desire for ourself. If others prefer the bad, they must have their choice. If they delight in the society of fiends, rioting, profanity, obscenety, drunkenness, blasphemy, theft, murder and other works of the evil one, in this life, they are free moral agents and may enjoy themselves in their favorite sports in the dens of infamy in this life, and after death, it will be just as natural for them to go to hell as it is for the sparks to fly upwards. "Rejoice, Oh young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." Eccl. 11: 9. We know that dissipation brings suffering of the severest kind in this life. There are thousands of living witnesses to this fact all around us. The agonies of the most orthodox hell with all its fire and brimstone, can scarcely exceed the torment which they are even now enduring. "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap." Here is another fulfilment of the scriptures. Therefore beware! O beware, intelligent reader; and trifle not with the glorious liberty with which Christ has made you free, that you may choose this day whom you will serve.

But it is said, the idea of the torments of hell is a cruel one, and incompatible with the doctrine of a merciful Creator. It is not so, however, since hell is not made for man, but for demons, and no one needs to go to hell unless he chooses. It would be cruel for a parent to dig a ditch in the road through which his children must travel, and fill it with fire and cover it over so that it could not be noticed. But hell is not so located. It is outside the path of life. It is an open pit, and its flames can be seen by night, and the smoke of its torment by day; the groans of the doomed may be heard day and night; God has mercifully erected a high enclosure around it, and has sent forth his messengers to cry aloud: "O children of Israel, fight not against the Lord God of your fathers;" He ever extends the invitation: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye and take the water of life freely;" and we say, it, after all this warning and invitation on the part of God and his agencies, man will deliberately climb over all the reasonable and loving restraints, and plunge himself into the yawning gulf, we fail to see any cruelty except that which man inflicts upon himself; nor can we conceive of any power to prevent it compatible with man's free moral agency. The being who cannot be induced to forsake the paths of sin for the glories of paradise or from the torments of hell, will corrupt earth and would pollute heaven, and God has wisely prepared a place for his people, and to all others it will be said at the day of judgment: "Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." That will be hell.

ASHLAND IN DAKOTA.

From a communication in the Bismarck, Dak., *Daily Tribune* of Nov. 13, we learn that a county was organized in Dakota Territory, on the 9th instant, called Emmons county, with the following board of sub-officers:

William L. Yeater, R. S. Whitney, and J. B. Gayton, Commissioners.
Daniel Williams, Register of Deeds.
W. N. Wade, Sheriff.
George Dougherty, Judge of Probate Court.
Joseph N. Roop, Treasurer.
D. R. Rupert, Surveyor.
J. H. Worst, Superintendent of Public Schools.
Jos. Tape, Assessor.
Henry Hodgkinson, Coronor.
John Kurtz, A Bonch, A. M. Weller and E. J. McMesser, Justices of the Peace.
Ed. Campbell, Dudley Walker, Peter Shener, and Jos. Baker, Constables.

Williamsport was unanimously voted the county seat.

Of the above officers, the following are Ashlanders: Yeater, Dougherty, Roop, Rupert, Worst, Kurtz, and Campbell. And Roop, Worst and Kurtz are members of the Brethren church, and Mr. Yeater is at least a half brother. We suppose it is all right, but it will require a little time before it will appear quite natural to write Hon. W. L. Yeater, and "Squire Kurtz, instead of Will and John. They are just the men to fill such offices, if good and honest men are wanted, who will discharge the duties of the offices with fidelity to the people and honor to themselves. And the men are very well placed according to their capabilities. A paper is to be started at Williamsport soon, and report has it that brother J. H. Worst is to be editor and publisher. We hope our friends will prosper in their western homes, since they have left our community, though we miss them here. We hope, too, that our brethren will not forget to raise the standard of our religion, and see that a Brethren church will be the first to be organized at their new county seat, and then "Hold the fort."

Of course there is nothing in a name, but why was not the new county called Ashland county?

THE NATION'S SIN AGAINST MARRIAGE.

The numerous and alarming evils arising from the prevalence of divorces and their increase in the states where they can be obtained with so much ease, has created much interest among the Christian denominations of the United States, and accordingly a convention has been called, to meet at Columbus, Ohio, on December 6th, at 2:30 P. M., for the purpose of organizing a league, the object of which shall be the education of a healthy public opinion upon the subjects of marriage and the family, and the establishment of such laws as will tend to conserve the rights, not only of individual husbands and wives, but also those of minor children, and of society at large.

We hope the convention will be a success. We would be pleased to be present if it were possible. Hope some of our Brethren will attend, and help the good work along.

A committee of the Protestant Episcopal church of Southern Ohio, on reform in divorce laws at its session last May, recommends the following items to be incorporated into the divorce laws of the state of Ohio:

First.—A period of three weeks shall be required to elapse between the granting of the marriage license and the marriage ceremony; guarded provision being made for cases of special exegency.

Second.—The judge shall designate the newspaper or newspapers in which the notice of the divorce suit is to be published.

Third.—Neither party to a divorce suit shall be permitted to re-marry for a space of three years after the decrees is granted.

Fourth.—Divorce trials shall be had only where the parties last resided together, bona fide, unless by reason of wrong done by the defendant, it is necessary to bring it elsewhere.

Fifth.—The Court shall appoint counsel to represent the defendant, who may be absent; to find such defendant if possible; and to conduct the defense in case he or she cannot be found, or, being found, refuses to appear.

Sixth.—Where crime is disclosed in the proceedings, the Court shall direct the prosecuting attorney to lay the matter before the grand jury.

In recommending a prohibition of re-marriage for three years your committee desires to be understood as not admitting that any divorced person should marry again during the life of the other party to the divorce, unless the cause was adultery, and he or she be the innocent party.

We approve of the above suggestions, and especially of the explanation to number three, though when permitted to re-marry at all, we do not see why three years of widowhood should be required. It is a useless waste of time.

Editorial Miscellany.

The Brethren expect to organize a church in Emmons county, Dakota, next spring.

Brother Swihart will commence a protracted meeting in the Farmersville congregation about the 11th of December.

Brother J. H. Swihart informs us that a Brethren church was organized at Sugar Grove, Howard county, Indiana. And so the work goes bravely on.

Any of the Brethren seeking homes are invited to stop off at Gladstone, Tama county, Iowa, on the Milwaukee railroad, and call on brother D. Krichard, who will kindly receive all such.

Brother J. H. Worst expects to enter the evangelistic field about the first of December. He will likely make his first effort in Iowa, and then work eastward until he reaches home. We are glad he has determind upon this course, and hope his labors will be richly blessed.

Hymnody. The new hymn book is promised to be out by the middle of December. We have seen the proofs of a number of the pages, and we are favorably impressed with the hymns and the music. We cannot tell the number of pages or hymns which it is to contain.

The Ashland City church has appointed a council meeting for Saturday afternoon of Dec. 8th, to commence punctually at 1 o'clock. The object is to elect some help to the ministy. We would be glad to see some of the brethren and sisters from the neighboring churches present with us.

"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless millions mourn." Although not a scriptural text yet a very truthful proverb. Contains not only a truth but a sad truth, and a humiliating truth. The ills of life which we bring upon ourselves and upon one another are more numerous than those which the fates inflicts upon us.

Richard Arnold of Ashland City, Ohio, recently purchased him a homestead of 160 acres two and a half miles west of Montana, Labette Co. Kans. He will live in the church of the Brethren at Fairview, and will be a valuable accession to the church. His removal is contemplated in the spring. A. J. HIXSON.

Brother Abram Ecker, of West Salem, Ohio, gave us a friendly call last Friday. He has just lately returned from quite an extended visit to the south. He spent most of his time at Chattanooga, Tennessee, and has lots to tell of southern life. He can describe a negro meeting so well that one imagines he sees the darkies shake themselves and hears their songs and the music of the mouth organ.

We had a strong desire to be with brethren of New Enterprise, Pa, last Saturday, but we just could not. Our office duties are very pressing; and as brother Mason has shipped his goods, and we can no longer rely upon him, our traveling and visiting among the churches has come to an abrupt close. We long to be with the Brethren of Morrison's Cove; but for the present we must be content to be with them in spirit only. May they have a happy season.

A telegrapm to brother Richard Arnold, last Sunday morning, announced the death of sister Annie Flickinger, daughter of brother Wm. Flickinger, of Brown county, Kansas. She was a very modest and amiable young woman, and highly respected by all her friends and acquaintances. She visited among her friends in Ashland last winter, while her brother was attending college. Her death was brought about by Diphtheria. The bereaved friends have our sympathy.

At a council meeting last Wednesday evening brother Isaac Kilhetner and wife were received into fellowship with the Ashland City Brethren church. We are glad to receive them, and hope we may do each other good and not harm. Brother Kilhefner is an intelligent, active young man, and bids fair for great usefulness in the ministry. In his relations with the Brethren church he will have good opportunities for improving his talents, without exciting the jealousy of his co-workers. The more successful and useful he will become the more he will be loved.

MAKE $20 FOR CHRISTMAS.—The publishers of *Rutledge's Monthly* offer twelve valuable rewards in their *Monthly* for December, among which is the following:

We will give $20.00 to the person telling us how many verses there are containing but three words each in the Old Testament Scriptures by December 10th, 1883. Should two or more correct answers be received, the reward will be divided. The money will be forwarded to the winner Dec. 15th, 1883. Persons trying for the reward must send 20 cents in silver (no postage stamps taken) with their answer, for which they will receive the January *Monthly*, in which the name and address of the winner of the reward and the correct answer will be published, and in which several more valuable rewards will be offered. Address RUTLEDGE PUBLISHING CO., Easton, Pa.

A Sister who has lately received the EVANGELIST through the kindness of another sister, thus acknowledges the receipt thereof:

Many thanks for sending me the paper. I appreciate it very much. May the Lord bless that dear sister abundantly for requesting you to send it to me at her expense. I would like to pay for it myself, but I am not able. It is a support to me, for I do not get to church at all. When I read of the good prayer meetings among the Brethren, it gives me a desire to join with them. I often wish I could have prayer meetings in my family, for I have a husband and two dear daughters to be saved, and I think it would help me along so much for I am so weak. I know that my heavenly Father will help me, still it is a comfort to have earthly help. I ask an interest in your prayers, in behalf of myself and family. S.C.

"David C. Cook, the well known Sunday-school publisher, has given a $2,500 Cottrell steam printing press to the American Mission publishing house of India."—*Cynosure.*

That was clever in Mr. Cook. Will not some of our well to do brethren or sisters open their hearts and their purse strings in a similar way, and make a present of a press to the EVANGELIST office. It is very much needed. We have no press and are obliged to get our press work done elsewhere, sometimes much to our disadvantage. Here is an opportunity of doing good. Who will embrace it?

The meeting at Ankneytown, Ohio, conducted by brother Mallott, closed on last Wednesday evening. Twenty-seven came out on the Lord's side. The church at North Liberty was organized last June with forty-six members. It now numbers about one hundred and thirteen. We think the Brethren there have much reason to be encouraged. Brother Isaac Leedy is at present, the only resident minister there, unless our brother A. L. Garber is still reckoned as belonging there; but brother Mallott expects to move to North Liberty shortly, and join in the work as a pastor. May the Lord bless the church at North Liberty, and help all the members to prove faithful and live out the doctrine; make them living epistles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We select the following for the benefit of our pork-eating readers:

"The scarcity of snakes in Ireland, was, at a recent meeting of the Edinburgh Scientific Society, credited to the antipathy that exists between the pig and all such reptiles. A letter was read to show that in certain parts of India, the cobra di copello, the most venomous of all serpents, had actually been exterminated by the introduction of pigs. And the great number of these animals to be found in Ireland, sufficed to explain the scarcity of snakes without resorting to an appeal to St. Patrick."

Pheugh! The hog is reputed as being the dirties animal that lives. But we humbly submit if the man who eats the pig that was fed on snakes does not deserve the honor of being dubbed the dirtiest animal in the kingdom. If we have heretofore said too much against the pig we humbly beg its pardon.

To the Brethren who are still scattered among the German Baptist churches surrounding Ashland, we extend a brotherly invitation, to come and go with us, whenever you feel to do so. We think it would be better to join in with us, for four to six miles around the city than to form a separate church in the country. Such organization would necessarily have to be weak for a while, and would have no house to worship in, and would be obliged to labor under many disadvantages. While if such members will annex themselves to Ashland this church will be made large and strong, and we will be enabled to give